

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended) A method of refilling a spent ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:

providing the spent ink bag, the spent ink bag having an ink supply port that is selectively engageable with the ink jet recorder;

positioning the spent ink bag in a vacuum chamber;

inserting an ink needle into the ink supply port of the spent ink bag;

pressing the spent ink bag with a pressing plate;

discharging ink from the spent ink bag only through said port, the discharging being caused, at least in part, by the pressing of the spent ink bag with the pressing plate; and

after said discharging step, charging the spent ink bag only through said port with a specified quantity of ink in a vacuum.

3. (Currently amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag having a flexible bag portion having an interior and being initially filled with ink through a first opening in the bag that is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an ink bag, the ink bag having a second opening that is different than the first opening, the second opening being an ink supply port selectively engageable with the ink jet recorder;

positioning the ink bag in a vacuum chamber;

advancing a tip of an ink needle into the interior of the flexible bag portion by passing the tip of the needle through the second opening;

pressing the ink bag with a pressing plate to cause a quantity of residual ink to be discharged through the second opening; and

charging the ink bag only through the second opening with a specified quantity of ink in a vacuum.

4. (Currently amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag being initially filled with ink through a first opening in the bag that is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the ink bag, the ink bag having, disposed on a line, the first opening and an opposing second opening that is an ink supply port selectively engageable with an ink jet recorder;

positioning the ink bag in a vacuum chamber;

advancing a tip of an ink needle along the line and through the second opening in the ink bag;

pressing the ink bag with a pressing plate to cause a quantity of residual ink to be discharged through the second opening; and

charging the ink bag only through the second opening with a specified quantity of ink in a vacuum.

5-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of removing the spent ink bag from the ink jet recorder,

wherein said discharging is performed after said removing step.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of removing the spent ink bag from the ink jet recorder.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of removing the spent ink bag from the ink jet recorder.

14. (Currently amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag having a flexible bag portion having an interior and being initially filled with ink through a first opening formed by a part of the flexible bag portion and which said first opening is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an ink bag, the ink bag having a second opening formed in a port attached to another part of the flexible bag portion and that is different than the first opening, the second opening being an ink supply port selectively engageable with the ink jet recorder;

positioning the ink bag in a vacuum chamber;

advancing a tip of an ink needle into the interior of the flexible bag portion by passing the tip of the needle through the second opening in the port;

pressing the ink bag with a pressing plate to cause a quantity of residual ink to be discharged through the second opening; and

charging the ink bag only through the second opening in the port with a specified quantity of ink in a vacuum.

15. (Currently amended) A method of refilling an ink bag for use in an ink jet recorder, the ink bag being initially filled with ink through a first opening formed by a part of the flexible bag portion and which said first opening is sealed after the ink bag is initially filled, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the ink bag, the ink bag having, disposed on a line, the first opening and an opposing second opening formed in a port attached to another part of the flexible bag portion, and the second opening is an ink supply port selectively engageable with an ink jet recorder;

positioning the ink bag in a vacuum chamber;

advancing a tip of an ink needle along the line and through the second opening in the port;

pressing the ink bag with a pressing plate to cause a quantity of residual ink to be discharged through the second opening; and

charging the ink bag only through the second opening in the port with a specified quantity of ink in a vacuum.

16-20. (Cancelled).